(b) There is no specific proposal under consideration in this regard.

(c) Government of India has tal<en a number of steps to improve the trade with other countries which include:

- promotion of dialogue including discussions at the highest level;
- constant review of bilateral trade at the Government level through Joint Commission/Working Group/Sub-Group meetings.
- promotion of direct business contacts by way of exchange of delegations, Joint Business Councils, holding of and participation In exhibitions, fairs, buyer-seller meets etc.

Export of human hairs

1089. SHRIPARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the annual earning from the export of human hairs;

(b) the import and export policy of Government in this regard;

(c) the names of the countries to whom exports are made;

(d) whether it is a fact that much of the raw human hairs are being imported by China from India for making various products like wigs, etc; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to tap the overseas markets in order to enhance the export of human hairs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) The annual exports of human hair and its products is of the order of 33 million US Dollars;

(b) There are no specific restrictions on import and export of human hairs and can be done freely;

(c) China, U.S.A., Hong Kong, and Tunisia are among the top importing countries;

(d) Yes Sir. China is the largest importer of raw human hairs from India; and

(e) The export promotion council have so far taken two 3-member delegation of human hairs to Hong Kong, South Korea, Japan and U.S.A.

Relief to plantation crop growers

1090. SHRl JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to create a special corpus of Rs. 500 crores to provide relief to the plantation crop growers in times of depressed market conditions;

(b) if so, the details in this regard; and

(c) the details of the loss suffered by coffee, tea, coconut, arecanut and rubber growers in various parts of the country on account of declining prices of their respective products or unfavourable climatic conditions and relief provided to the growers during the last three years, crop-wise and year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRl RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) and (b) Government has approved the setting up of a Price Stabilisation Fund with a corpus of Rs. 500 crore to provide relief to the growers of tea, coffee, rubber and tobacco in the times of depressed prices.

(c) There has been a decline in the prices of coffee, tea, coconut, arecanut and rubber and the growers of these commodities are not getting the same price as they were getting few years back. The decline in the prices has adversely affected the income of the growers making plantations unviable.

To provide relief to the growers of these commodities Government has taken a series of steps enumerated below;—

Coffee: Concerned with the problems of the coffee growers, Government (Banks) has rephased loans availed by the coffee growers, provided interest relief of 5% and 3% to small growers and large growers respectively on the working capital loans taken by them from financial institutions and provided financial assistance @ 50 paisa per kg to the exporters for reducing the handling cost etc.